Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 3, and 8 being the independent claims. Claim 1 is amended herein and support for the changes may be found at least in paragraph [0048] of the specification. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Although the amendment to claim 1 is made after final it is not believed to require further search and/or consideration.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because it is unclear if the password table gets updated or if the whole password table gets prerecorded on the recording medium. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the "password management table associating said password with said acquisition code is prerecorded on said information recording medium." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0144116 to Giobbi ("the Giobbi publication") in view of U.S.

Patent No. 6,631,359 to Braitberg *et al.* ("the Braitberg patent"). Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,799,277 to Colvin ("the Colvin patent") in view of the Braitberg patent. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The Giobbi publication in view of the Braitberg patent

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, is directed to a viewing management method wherein:

> a password management table associating said password with said acquisition code is prerecorded on said information recording medium, and the step of presenting the acquisition code includes, each time a content reproduction request is received from the viewer: said prescribed reproduction device generating a random number based on a prescribed random function; and said prescribed reproduction device selecting and presenting an acquisition code corresponding to the generated random number from the password management table.

Independent claim 3 is directed to a viewing management method wherein:

> a password management table associating said password with said acquisition code is recorded on said information recording medium, and said prescribed reproduction device presents an acquisition code corresponding to a random number generated according to a prescribed random function.

Independent claim 8 is directed to a system for reading an information recording medium with a prescribed reproduction device including:

> an information recording medium having recorded thereon a viewing management target content, a prescribed password management table and prescribed control information, wherein in said prescribed password management table, a prescribed password is associated with a prescribed acquisition code, and wherein said prescribed control information contains a control program for said prescribed reproduction device to perform a plurality of functions, the functions comprising: presenting a

prescribed acquisition code corresponding to a random number generated according to a prescribed random function to said viewer and urging said viewer to input a prescribed password associated with said presented prescribed acquisition code in said prescribed password management table.

Neither the Giobbi publication, nor the Braitberg patent, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the invention claimed in independent claims 1, 3, and 8.

As noted by the Examiner, the Giobbi publication does not disclose or suggest having a password management table recorded on the information recording medium or the acquisition code corresponding to a random number generated based on a random function. The Examiner asserts that the Braitberg patent discloses the features missing from the disclosure of the Giobbi publication, particularly presenting an acquisition code based on a random number generated by a random function. The Braitberg patent discusses "random-access servo information" at col. 5, line 38 and a "random number key" at col. 13, lines 64-65, however neither have anything to do with the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to the combination of the Giobbi publication and the Braitberg patent.

For at least the reasons noted above, independent claims 1, 3, and 8 and dependent claims 2 and 5-7 are patentable over the combination of the Giobbi publication and the Braitberg patent. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Atty. Dkt. No. 1089.0560000/MAC/JHH

Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2008

The Colvin paten in view of the Braitberg patent

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, is directed to a viewing management method wherein:

> the step of presenting the acquisition code includes, each time a content reproduction request is received from the viewer: said prescribed reproduction device generating a random number based on a prescribed random function; and said prescribed reproduction device selecting and presenting an acquisition code corresponding to the generated random number from the password management table.

Independent claim 3 is directed to a viewing management method wherein:

> said prescribed reproduction device presents an acquisition code corresponding to a random number generated according to a prescribed random function.

Independent claim 8 is directed to a system for reading an information recording medium with a prescribed reproduction device including:

> wherein said prescribed control information contains a control program for said prescribed reproduction device to perform a plurality of functions, the functions comprising: presenting a prescribed acquisition code corresponding to a random number generated according to a prescribed random function to said viewer and urging said viewer to input a prescribed password associated with said presented prescribed acquisition code in said prescribed password management table.

Neither the Colvin patent, nor the Braitberg patent, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the invention claimed in independent claims 1, 3, and 8.

The Examiner asserts that the Colvin patent discloses presenting an acquisition code based on a random number generated by a random function. However, as shown for example in FIG. 14a, the Colvin patent discloses the sequential steps of generating an activation key (step 652), then creating a random encryption key for each activation key (step 654), and then encrypting a password and random number with the encryption key for each activation key (step 656). In other words, at best, the Colvin patent discloses

determining an activation key first and then afterwards determining a random number for that activation key. However, in the invention claimed in independent claims 1, 3, and 8, the random number is determined first and afterwards the acquisition code corresponding to the random number is determined.

As noted above, the Braitberg patent does not disclose or suggest presenting an acquisition code based on a random number generated by a random function. Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to the combination of the Colvin patent and the Braitberg patent.

For at least the reasons noted above, independent claims 1, 3, and 8 and dependent claims 2 and 5-7 are patentable over the combination of the Colvin patent and the Braitberg patent. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.
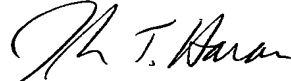
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Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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